

North Haven Public Schools

North Haven, Connecticut 06473

North Haven Public Schools Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting/Special Meeting
Thursday, September 10, 6:30 p.m.
5 Linsley Street, North Haven, CT 06473

Attendance: Anita Anderson, Wesley O'Brien, Randi Petersen, Goldie Adele, Bryan Bogen, Jennifer Caldwell, Jennifer Cecarelli, Matthew Kerzner, Dorothy Logan, Kristine Carling, Director of Finance, Operations and Human Resources, Melinda McKenna, Assistant Superintendent, and Robert D. Cronin, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Consent Agenda
 - 1. Minutes August 6, 2015

Moved: to approve the items on the Consent Agenda

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Jennifer Cecarelli
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

- III. Board of Education Student Representatives Reports

Larissa Ostrinski reported that everyone is settling in and the High School is having their Open House on September 17, 2015.

- IV. Report of the Board of Education Chairperson or Designee

Mrs. Anderson introduced and welcomed Dorothy Logan, who will be a new Board Member replacing Alicia Clapp. Mrs. Anderson welcomed back all teachers and students in North Haven wishing them a wonderful year.

- V. Unfinished Business

Ms. Caldwell stated that she would like an update regarding the Storytellers' contract with North Haven Public Schools. Mrs. Carling provided a copy of the contract to each Board Member to review. There was further discussion regarding this contract, and possible solutions to the concerns brought before the Board of Education surrounding yearbook photos, etc.

VI. New Business

VII. Reports of Standing Committees

1. ACES

No Report at this time. Dr. Cronin will be contacting ACES to schedule an appointment to meet regarding appointing a new Board Member to represent ACES.

2. Athletics

Mrs. Anderson added:

Motion: to add an action item to the agenda regarding a donation from the family of
John Liquori

Approved

MOVED: Randi Petersen
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Mrs. Peterson reported:

- All State – All Area awards – Colin Uyeki- Selected 2015 U.S. Lacrosse All American
 - 1st Team All SCC – SCC Most Valuable Player 2015
 - 1st Team All State – Register All Area MVP
- Baseball Recognition Ceremony – Scheduled for October 23rd at Halftime of Football game.
- Donation(s): Football: A telescopic camera donation made by the John Liquori Fund; donated by Lisa Liquori, John's mother.
- Concession stand at Vanacore Field – Teams/Clubs have had the opportunity to sign up to run the football concession stand during home football games. To date, the amount of groups that have shown interest will get one game during a three year cycle. No group will get a repeat turn until all groups have had a turn.
- Field Improvements – awaiting CT authorization
- Opening of Fall sports – All of the fields were lined and opened on time, with little delay or interruption of activities.
- Irrigation line in current practice football field was accidentally cut. Therefore, it wasn't watered for approximately one month in July. Repairs were made by the construction company.
- Brook Field coming along for JV soccer – Long term solution for irrigation needs to be discussed and planned.
- Soccer field - Moles. Mr. Diana is working on solving the problem in the quickest and best way possible.
- Vanacore Field – Parking Plan due to construction
 - For safety reasons, our NHPD Chief and Deputy Chief recommended the closure of the walking path created by the construction company used as a pedestrian walkway for foot traffic to Vanacore and football games. Mr. Diana, NHPD, and the construction company are working to create an adequate and safe entrance /exit strategy for spectators and vehicles to football games at Vanacore Field.
 - For the safety of all, parking will be available in the high school parking lot and spectators will have to walk on the designated path.
 - For safety reasons, NHPD Chief and Deputy Chief would like the proposed NHMS Staff lot closed to spectators (open only to event staff) for the season, until a flow of traffic can be established
 - Additional event staffing will be needed; we will increase officers from 4 to 5.

-Mr. Diana and Dr. Dallai have been in constant contact with the construction company to update and create additional safe walkways along the outer perimeter of the building and removal of parking spaces for pedestrian crosswalks.

- The cost of the batteries needed to run the golf cart is approximately \$960 to replace. This expense may need to go on a replacement schedule every three years.
- Booster clubs
 - Trying to set up a coordinated effort with both booster clubs to create a system of requests for equipment / boosters so that requests aren't doubled and double efforts are not made and wasted.
- Pay to Participate in Club Sports
 - Suggestion to have a family cap when more than one student is participating in a pay to play club.
- Tailgating – Football games
 - Due to safety concerns and limited space related to the middle school construction, tailgating will not be allowed before, during, or after games.
- Next Meeting will be October 6, 2015 at 5:30 p.m

Mrs. Anderson made the following Motion:

Motion: to accept a donation of a telescopic camera to the football team from
the family of John Liquori

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

3. Curriculum, Instruction, and Planning

Mrs. McKenna reported:

- Smarter Balanced Assessment update is available from the Connecticut State Department of Education- Mrs. McKenna shared SBAC and CMT/CAPT Science data which was released from the state department.
- Teachers College Writing Project- Mrs. McKenna discussed the plan for bringing Teachers College training into our elementary buildings.
- CSDE Coaching Grant Award- Mrs. McKenna shared that she wrote a grant during the summer and the district was allocated 21 coaching days. She will work with ACES to design a plan for these days.
- Field Trip Request- Nature's Classroom (Ridge Road and Green Acres)- Nature's Classroom trip for spring 2016 was approved. The Curriculum & Instruction Committee will invite the elementary principals to our October meeting to discuss this topic.
- Determine meeting dates and time for 2015-2016 Curriculum & Instruction Meetings- Meetings will continue to be held on the first Monday of the month at 9AM at Central Office. Our next meeting will be on October 5, 2015.

4. Finance and Operations

Mrs. Carling stated that the summer was spent hiring teachers/support staff for all of the vacancies. Mrs. Carling reported that she is hoping to get everything encumbered as soon as possible. There are some minor deficits that will fluctuate throughout the year.

Mrs. Carling and Mrs. Corriveau, Director of Student Services meet regularly to review the out of district tuition.

The Committee discussed transportation. Mrs. Carling stated that transportation is going well, ironing out some minor transportation issues. The new bus loop is running at the middle high. Morning is very smooth, however in the afternoon it is very tight and the bus company has some concerns. The bus company and the engineer of the NHMSBC have suggested some changes and have come up with a possible solution, and will bring in to the NHMSBC for approval.

Mrs. Carling also reported that the buildings were in very good condition for the opening of school. She reported that an evaluation has been done of all of the playgrounds in the District by an insurance company, and they have given some great feedback with an extensive report of things that need to be repaired/improved upon. Mrs. Carling and Mr. Diana are reviewing the report and trying to get some of those repairs/improvements done in a timely manner.

5. Middle School Building Committee

Mr. Adele reported the Building Committee met Tuesday, September 9, 2015. Outside of the bus loop issue, construction is progressing. Next meeting is on site on Monday September 15, 2015. Mr. Adele reported that everything is going smoothly and is on schedule.

6. North Haven Education Foundation

North Haven Education Foundation met September 9, 2015. They discussed the next Spelling Bee which is scheduled for April 28, 2016. Mr. Kerzner stated that the Foundation is looking for corporate sponsors for next year.

Mr. Kerzner also shared a thank you letter from the teachers who attended the Teachers Reading Writing Program at Columbia, which was funded by the North Haven Education Foundation.

7. Policy

Ms. Caldwell stated that she is waiting for the Series 4000 to return from CAFE for the Board to read and approve.

8. PTA Council

Mrs. Cecarelli reported that the first meeting is going to be September 28, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the NHHS Library at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. Staff Communications

A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cronin stated that he would like to do some building tours for the Board of Education members. Dr. Cronin suggests to do two schools at a time, with the building principal and Phil Diana as the guides. He stated that he will work to gather some dates and times that will work for everyone involved.

1. Enrollment Numbers

Dr. Cronin gave an overview of the current enrollment in the district for the 2015-2016 school year, including Open Choice students enrolled at North Haven.

Dr. Cronin stated that overall enrollment has decreased by more than 94 students throughout the district.

2. District Improvement Plan 2015-2016

Dr. Cronin explained the District Improvement Plan for 2015-2016 and answered any questions the Board of Education may have.

Moved: to approve the District Improvement Plan 2015-2016

Approved

MOVED: Wesley O'Brien
SECOND: Jennifer Cecarelli
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Dr. Cronin spoke to the issue of the "Supply List". He stated that his intentions were specifically referring to the lists posted on website and sent home from school. For example, if a teacher has a very specific item needed in their classroom, they were instructed that the district would supply them, not the parents, examples were if they were all asked to bring in a "red" binder, or a "blue" folder. The usual school supplies can be purchased by parents.

Dr. Cronin spoke to the recent heat wave this week, and how he processes his decision regarding dismissing students early. Dr. Cronin stated that he would never want to compromise the safety of students.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mrs. McKenna reported:

- Mrs. McKenna shared the Smarter Balance results with the Board of Education. Student scores were just received yesterday and will be sent home to parents mid to late October for parents to see.
- Mrs. McKenna stated that this year's results will be a baseline for the district to follow. SBAC scores were not received from the HS because of the high opt-outs. SATs will be available next year to 11th graders only in place of SBAC. This will be taken in March of 2016.
- Mrs. McKenna also reported that the State mandated K, 1, 2, and 3 teachers to take a reading survey which had to be completed by September 11th. Our teachers took this survey and our obligations have been fulfilled.

C. Director of Finance and Operations

1. Director of Finance and Operation's Report
2. Approval of the 2015-2016 Monthly Financial Report

Moved: to approve the 2015-2016 Monthly Financial Report

Approved

MOVED: Bryan Bogen
SECOND: Matthew Kerzner
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

IX. Public Comment

- Cheri Gibson commented regarding the supply list, stating that Dr. Cronin's directives were very clear, but the teachers did not follow instructions and have caused much confusion to the students. She also commented about Nature's Classroom, and what a wonderful experience it is for the students.
- Carol Adorn commented on Natures Classroom and what a great experience it is for students. She also commented on the new Principal and the new faculty at Ridge Road

and how wonderful everything has been this year. She would also like to see a grant written for the library at Ridge Road, which needs some updating.

- Tom Marak, NHEA thanked Bob and he recognizes what a tough call it is to call an early dismissal. Mr. Marak also spoke regarding enrollment, SBAC, as well as supply lists.
- Al Warren commented on field conditions, the heat wave and sports teams playing in these conditions, as well as the districts Open Choice Program. Mr. Warren also commented regarding the tour of the buildings.

X. Future Agenda Items

- Turf fields

Discussion

XI. Executive Session – none needed

XII. Adjournment

Moved: to adjourn at 8:45p.m

Approved

MOVED: Goldie Adele
SECOND: Randi Petersen
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Anderson

Anita Anderson,
Chairman